

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Farr: State House Sets Wrong Education Priorities**



Legislation approved Wednesday by the state House of Representatives that would ban the sale of some snacks and soft drinks in Connecticut's public schools and require them to set aside at least 20 minutes per day for recess will do nothing to improve students' grasp of mathematics and science, nor will it make them more competitive with their counterparts in countries like China, state Representative Bob Farr, R-19th District, said today.

The measure (Senate Bill 1309) would prohibit the sale of candy, sodas, and other snacks from school vending machines and require schools to set aside 20 minutes per school day for recess, Representative Farr said.

"Is this supposed to be the General Assembly's major education initiative for this legislative session?" Representative Farr asked. "Are longer recesses and sugar-free snacks the only school issues that the state House of Representatives considers important enough to spend eight hours debating? Instead of wasting our time on matters best left up to local school boards, we should be focusing our attention on ways of improving Connecticut's public school students' grasp of critical subjects such as math, science, English composition and social studies."

"At a time when students in Connecticut and elsewhere in the United States are falling behind their counterparts in China and other foreign countries, we should be doing everything we can to ensure they master the skills most in demand by employers. Providing our young people with an extra 20 minutes of recess won't give them the competitive edge they need to close the gap. I'm appalled to say the least," Representative Farr said.

The legislation was returned to the State Senate for reconsideration after the House amended it Wednesday. The Senate approved an earlier version of the bill April 27th. Both chambers must agree on a final draft before it can go to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.